

P-20 Council Meeting Notes
Buck Library, Buena Vista Conference Center
New Castle, DE
Monday, April 13, 2015

Welcome

State Board of Education Executive Director Donna Johnson welcomed Council members as she called the meeting to order. She provided a brief overview of the agenda for the meeting.

Members present: Teri Quinn Gray, Donna Johnson, Peggy Bottorff, Kimberly Sudler, Kim Joyce, Jeff Gibson, Earl Jacques, Steve Yeatman, Rhonda Ringer, Frederika Jenner, Kendall Massett, and Michael Watson.

Others present: Linda Zankowsky, Kathie Cherry, Fran Riddle, Susan Perry Manning, Ryan Reyna, Melissa Hopkins, Liz Hoyt, Maria Stecker, Christopher Ruszkowski, Doug Gagnon

Update on Early Childhood Education Programs and Initiatives

Susan Perry-Manning from the Office of Early Learning came to Delaware the end of February and has been touring the state conducting focus group discussions on “What should then future be for early childhood?” Seven focus groups with approximately 150 people plus about 500 online survey responders have provided feedback. She noted that the three strategies rated the highest were:

- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
- TA and coaching for early learning programs to improve quality (Stars)
- Financial incentives to maintain higher Star levels and ensure children with high needs are accessing Star-rated programs

General themes from the focus groups and survey included supporting the whole child, cross-sector participation, concern for funding and service equity, value of family voice, participation and support and strong desire for sustained investment in early learning.

ESEA Flexibility Renewal Application – Overview of the Submitted Application

Ryan Reyna from the Department of Education provided an update on the State’s ESEA Flexibility Renewal Application that focuses on college- and career-ready expectations for all students, differentiated recognition, accountability and support systems for schools and districts, supporting effective instruction and leadership, and reducing duplication and unnecessary burden. The submission of the application was approved by the State Board of Education at its March meeting and has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. The Department

does not expect to receive any correspondence from the U.S. Department of Education on its application until the summer months.

P-20 Council Business – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Donna Johnson, State Board Executive Director, noted a quorum of the Council was present. The minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Upcoming Agenda Items

Council members were provided with discussion time of future agenda items with each individual table reporting out.

Educator Equity Plan Development – Stakeholder Engagement Protocol

Christopher Ruszkowski from the Department of Education asked for feedback from the P-20 Council on the development of an Educator Equity Plan. Joining Mr. Ruszkowski were Maria Stecker and Doug Gagnon. Council members were provided with data on the gaps of the experience level of teachers and the equity gaps. It was noted that the same trends are across schools in the state. Each table was asked to provide stakeholder feedback.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the P-20 Council is scheduled for July 13, 2015 beginning at Noon. Lunch will be available at 11:45 a.m.